

## **Assigning “Lifeguard” and Maintaining Barriers Keys to Safety this Holiday Weekend**

Drowning deaths are not limited to backyard pools and many times they happen with multiple people poolside. Typically, half of serious incidents and deaths each year occur in group settings.

As Memorial weekend approaches, a high time for distractions by the pool, the Sun City West Fire District and the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona reminds families with backyard pools and apartment or condo community dwellers that water safety is everyone’s responsibility.

Never leave a child unsupervised near water. If you are enjoying a party poolside and children are in attendance, **please assign an adult to watch the water** – a lifeguard, so to speak – to ensure all guests are safe in and around the water. Do not assume that someone else is watching your child. Rotate this duty every 20 minutes. Lanyards, hats and wrist tags are available through various agencies help be a physical reminder of this assignment.

Keep gates and safety features intact around the pool and other water areas. Children are naturally attracted to water. Fences and other barriers are in place to keep them away from the water if they elude your supervision. **If you see a gate propped open, please shut it.** If you are unable to restore a safety device on your own, please contact a member of the staff immediately. Safety signs are available through the DPCA to help everyone remember the water safety rules.

For more information or to get materials, visit [www.preventdrownings.org](http://www.preventdrownings.org).